



June 2004

Volume XXXIV, No. 5

FREE



The grand opening of the Avon Foundation Breast Center at San Francisco General Hospital on Potrero Avenue included speeches by representatives from SFGH and from the University of California at San Francisco. Wielding golden shovels at the dedication of the Center's Healing Garden are, from left, Gene Marie O'Connell, Chief Executive Administrator of SFGH; District 10 Supervisor Sophie Maxwell; and Ellen Klutznick, a close friend of Carolyn Stolman, in whose memory the garden is named.

Kaz Tsuruta photo

New Breast Center Opens at SF General Hospital

The medically underserved, low-income, elderly and minority populations and those without adequate health insurance will be the beneficiaries of the new Avon Foundation Comprehensive Breast Center which opened May 13, at the San Francisco General Hospital (SFGH). Services within the new Center will focus on decreasing exam wait times and increasing the number of screening mammograms performed each year, from the current 5,000 to 10,000 annual mammograms.

The Avon Products Foundation awarded a \$12.2 million gift to be used to support clinical activities at SFGH, including SFGH's patients in breast cancer research underway at the UCSF Cancer Center, and to provide equal access to the best breast care for medically underserved women, as well as to develop new methods of educating women in the community who are SFGH patients about all aspects of breast care and treatment.

Breast cancer affects one of every eight women in the U.S. The number of women age 40 or older, the target population for annual mammograms, is growing by one million per year. In the S.F. Department of Public Health patient popula-

tion, there are approximately 7,000 to 11,000 female patients, 40-79 years of age, who are in need of mammography services. These women reside primarily in the Mission (25 percent), Excelsior (14 percent), and Bayview Hunters Point (16 percent).

Many Department of Public Health patients are not diagnosed during the early stages of disease, thus diminishing the opportunity to extend and maintain their quality of life. Studies have shown that annual mammograms can reduce deaths from breast cancer by about 30 percent.

To make an impact in preventing death and reducing morbidity from breast cancer, a Mammography Task Force was formed to focus on the development and construction of the Breast Imaging Center at SFGH. By augmenting Radiology and Oncology physicians to provide additional clinical care as patient numbers increased, the recommendations are now a reality.

Yet to be completed is an inner courtyard garden and grounds with benches for patients and families to sit on. The courtyard is already a delightful and comforting space.

Revised Plan for Central Waterfront Available

After a hiatus of over a year, the San Francisco Planning Department has scheduled a community workshop to review the latest revised proposal for rezoning the Central Waterfront. The meeting, Tuesday June 2, 6:30 p.m., at the California College of the Arts, 1111 Eighth Street, is taking place as the *View* goes to press. However, to find out what the planners are currently thinking, you can request a copy of the plan from Jasper Rubin of the Planning Department at 415-558-6310 or jasper_rubin@ci.sf.ca.us.

While the original "preferred" plan (preferred by the Planning Department, but not necessarily by the community) showed a potential for about 1,200 new housing units, the community has been pushing for closer to 3,000.

The conflict arises from the city's need to preserve light industry (Production, Distribution, and Repair - PDR), and a fear of displacing current PDR uses. We would like to continue the dialogue and encourage Planning to allow mixed-use residential in the areas north of 23rd Street with consideration for the same mixed use along Indiana Street between Cesar Chavez and the Woods Muni facility, west of Minnesota Street. This preserves a vast area south of the existing Mirant Power Plant all the way to Islais Creek for existing and new PDR uses, while promoting housing surrounding the existing residential enclaves.

— Susan Eslick, President,
Dogpatch Neighborhood Association

A Tale of Two Retirees

Teachers Robin Brasso and Jeff Thollander Honored

By Ruth Passen

Two popular longtime teachers at the Enola D. Maxwell School of the Arts on Potrero Hill were given their due recognition at events during the past month.

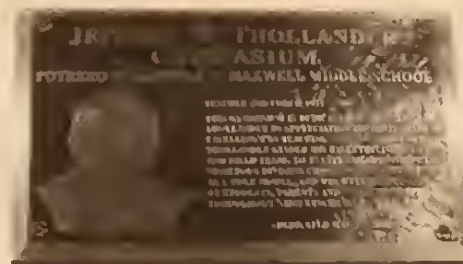
Jeff Thollander, who retired from his job as physical education teacher and coach at the school in last year, was feted May 21 when the Board of Education honored him by dedicating the school's gymnasium, naming it for him.

Native San Franciscan Thollander spent 32 years at the Middle School as teacher and coach, leading the basketball and track and field teams to winning seasons, garnering 15 City Championship titles.

Thollander, who had been on the staff of the school since it opened in 1971, was Athletic Director and Physical Ed Department head since 1981, helping the school to achieve other awards in track and basketball as well as other divisional championships.

At Thollander's suggestion, Enola D. Maxwell is one of the few schools in the city to display their winning pennants in the gymnasium; a total of 61 cover the gym walls.

Marking students' wins and achievements was been Thollander's philosophy. He developed a method of tracking their



The plaque on the wall of the newly named Jeffrey W. Thollander Gymnasium at EDM Middle School of the Arts.

progress on a chart posted in his office window; points were given for attendance, attitude, and performance.

His understanding of sports came from playing basketball and track in high school, going on to play basketball at San Francisco State College. He began working as a schoolyard director in college in some tough areas including Bayview, Hunters Point and South of Market.

For Thollander, teaching physical education has always been the number one priority. "You are a teacher first and a coach second. But coaching a winning kid means developing a rapport," he told a *View* reporter last year.

"When you have the opportunity to work with kids after school and during games it adds to the chemistry that you might not get in the 50-minute class period," he pointed out.

(Continued on Page 16)

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Personal View

Power to the People

By Joe Boss

How do we feel about the city's latest proposal for additional fossil-fueled generation at the base of Potrero Hill? In last month's *Potrero View*, I wrote that the San Francisco Electric Reliability Project (SFERP) originally was well intentioned, but had strayed from the "great" promises we had heard over the past year or more. We discovered that the plan to site four combustion turbines (CTs) in the city, three at the base of Potrero Hill and one downtown, was after further examination, not feasible as described. The main feature of the original program was the co-generation CT (electricity and steam) that would replace NRG's old boilers at 5th and Jessie, and would reduce the need for the old Mirant Potrero Power Plant. That element is now off the table. So where does that leave all of you air breathing residents and workers?

Well, we should be feeling okay that the three CTs at Potrero will definitely shut down the very polluting Hunters Point Power Plant; but what about the added pollution from these new units, and what are the prospects of curtailing the use of the old generation at the Mirant Potrero Power Plant? What can the city do to regain our trust?

The Mayor's office, working with Supervisor Sophie Maxwell's office, has assembled a new team who sat down with the city's project manager, Julie Labonte and her team last week to try to make some sense out of the whole project. I have been appointed to this team, and I did come away feeling that there might be some hope for our future, but it will take a lot of hard work.

First, Labonte admitted that the original plan was created before all of the "due diligence" was finished. The ideas presented were great, but not practically achievable. Also, there has not been the greatest cooperation from the state's Independent System Operators (CALISO) and PG&E. This made it impossible to plan

the great detail needed to complete the envisioned project. For CALISO's part, the biggest problem is that it is a new entity, created through deregulation, unfairly blamed for a lot of the "energy crisis," and not sure of its authority. It has matured over the past year and is finally making commitments in writing that assure the long-term elimination of our dependence on local generation through new transmission lines on the San Francisco peninsula.

For PG&E's part, it's a company bent on protecting its turf. PG&E will not support the city's efforts to build generation because it sees that as the beginning of "public power." It is not willing to give up its monopoly very easily.

PG&E generally refuses to share its user data, yet it is asking us to support their new transmission projects, which will be paid for by all of us through our energy bills. It is vital to the process of designing a clean and reliable power system that PG&E share its proprietary information.

And now for *our* part. We need to pay attention to this process and make sure we do not have to accept any compromises to our air quality. We also need to work toward reducing our personal energy consumption, not just in our homes, but also in our businesses.

While Labonte appears to know how to get things done, we must impress upon her and her team that a project that does not reduce our local air pollution is unacceptable. And if such a project is not feasible, we do not need the new CTs.

The public dialogue begins on June 15 at 2 p.m. at the Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro Street. It should be worth taking taking a few hours off from work, as the afternoon will include a tour of the site. I have been assured that future meetings will be scheduled for evenings and weekends.

Joe Boss lives in Dogpatch and is a frequent contributor to the View.



Follow the Misleader?

Editor:

The Bush administration has used the Patriot Act as an excuse to trample all over the Bill of Rights. Now, it appears that basic principles of the Geneva Convention have been conveniently ignored in the battle against "terrorism."

Patriotism is all about standing up for

the principles that truly matter, such as justice, freedom, fairness, and accountability. Patriotism is not about blind obedience to an arrogant misleader who lies about weapons of mass destruction, betrays government intelligence operatives, alienates our international allies, and sends massive numbers of American soldiers to die in an absolutely unnecessary war.

Rob Doehl
Santa Clara, CA

Letters to the Editor are subject to editing for length and clarity. They must be signed and include a street address as well as a phone number. Send to: The Potrero View, 953 De Haro Street, San Francisco, CA 94107 or e-mail editor@potreroview.net.

What's with Esprit Park?

When Esprit Park was acquired by the city three years ago, it was announced that improvements to the drainage and irrigation systems would be budgeted and work would begin about a year later. In 2003 Rec and Park announced that project planning was well underway and Design, Bid, and Construction would be completed before the end of the year. Since then the city has suffered from budget crunches, a cutback of gardeners, and a slowdown of scheduled projects. So here we are with a park that is in deplorable shape, still waiting for the drainage and irrigation systems to be overhauled. The situation is so bad that it recently made our competitor's "Chronicle Watch" column. The latest word from Rec Park is

that construction will begin in the fall and be completed before the winter rains.

Neighborhood complaints seem to fall on deaf ears, but let's face the fact that the City is in financial trouble. We must, though, insist that Rec Park sticks to its latest timeline. The money for the improvement project is coming out of park improvement bonds, not the general fund, so the work should move forward. Even if the improvements are completed, Dogpatch residents may have to create a Neighborhood Improvement District to help fund the ongoing maintenance of this treasure. Without proper care, Esprit Park will end up as an unusable eye sore.

For the latest update call Becky Ballenger at 415-831-2782. — Joe Boss



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The Potrero Hill Association of
Merchants and Businesses (PHAMB)
Welcomes New Members:

Kenyon Newman
ADP Small Business Services
Brazilian Cultural Center
Third & 18th Street

For more information about PHAMB, please visit our website at
www.potrerohill.biz

In Memoriam

KAY COLE
1911- 2004

*Former Potrero Hill resident.
Tireless advocate for the underprivileged
and American Indians.*

A full obituary will appear in the July issue

In Memoriam

BERNARD LEFKOWITZ
1937- 2004

*It is not often that someone comes along
who is a true friend and a good writer.
Bernie was both.*

Thank you — and thank you, E.B. White



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- ☐ \$20.00 check enclosed.

Name _____

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GETTING INVOLVED

Dogpatch Neighborhood Association meets the second Tuesday of each *even-numbered* month at 7 p.m., at 50 Tennessee Street. Next meeting: June 8.

PHAMB (Potrero Hill Association of Merchants & Businesses) meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. at Goat Hill Pizza, corner of Connecticut and 18th streets. Visit www.potrerohill.biz. Next meeting: June 8.

PHPA (Potrero Hill Parents' Association) meets on the first Friday of the month in the playground behind the Potrero Hill Recreation Center at Madera and Arkansas streets at 12 noon. Next two meetings: June 4 and July 2.

Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association meets the last Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. (social time starting at 6:30 p.m.) in the wheelchair-accessible Game Room of the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro Street. For more information visit www.potreroboosters.org or call president Tony Kelly at 341-8040 or e-mail him at president@potreroboosters.org. Next meeting: June 29.

Potrero Hill Garden Club usually meets the last Sunday of the month at 11 a.m. for a potluck lunch in a local home or garden. Informal discussion will be held on a variety of subjects relating to organic, edible, or ornamental gardening appropriate for Potrero Hill's particular mini-climate. Please call 648-6740 for details. Next meeting: June 27.

Potrero Hill Health Center Advisory Board meets on the first Monday of the month at the Health Center, 1050 Wisconsin Street, 5-7 p.m. Meetings are open to the public and the audience is welcome to express opinions. Next meeting: June 7.

ROSES (Residents of the Southeast Sector) meets the first Thursday of each month with members of the S.F. Police Dept. to discuss issues of public concern. The Forum takes place at 7 p.m. in the community facility downstairs at 1800 Oakdale at Phelps. Refreshments served after the meeting. Next two meetings: June 3 and July 1.

SFGH Rebuild Updates, neighborhood meetings hosted by S.F. General Hospital every second Wednesday, 6-8 p.m., 2789 25th Street (at Potrero), Rooms 2001-2003. San Francisco must rebuild its only safety net hospital and trauma center in order to meet higher seismic safety mandates. Call 206-5784 for more info. Next meeting: June 9.

Starr King Openspace will hold its *rescheduled* annual meeting and election on Tuesday, June 22, 7 p.m., at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro Street. For information about becoming a candidate see the March 2004 issue of *The Potrero View*, page 5. Back issues of the *View* are available at the Potrero Branch Library, or call the secretary at 810-4900. Volunteer for the Park work days continue *every* month on the third Saturday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Next work day: June 19 at the park, Carolina Street, south of 23rd. Mail: Starr King Park, P.O. Box 880293, San Francisco, CA 94188-0293.



What's Up at The Nabe?

Summer Youth Program 2004
Ages 5-13

Monday-Friday / 10 am - 5 pm

All activities are free

Snack and lunch provided daily

Sign up today

Contact: Shantel Brooks at the Neighborhood House
953 De Haro Street / 415-826-8080

On-going Meetings:

Alcoholics Anonymous: Mondays & Thursdays at 7 p.m.

Narcotics Anonymous: Wednesdays at 7:30

AL-ANON: Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

Employment Workshops: Fridays at 10 a.m.

Facilities:

Rental space for theatrical productions, receptions, workshops, meetings
Community bulletin board for employment and event listings
Gymnasium and recreational space

Potrero Hill Neighborhood House
953 De Haro Street / San Francisco, CA 94107
415 / 826-8080

Edward Hatter, Executive Director

The Potrero Hill Neighborhood House is a non-profit agency serving those most in need, with an emphasis on youth and education.
The Nabe is wheelchair accessible.
All services and activities are free.

Republicans Breaking 30-Year Promise on Affordable Housing

By Nancy Pelosi
House Democratic Leader

The budget should be a statement of our national values, but for the fourth time in four years, Republicans in Congress and President Bush are seeking to pass a budget that is nothing less than an assault on our national values. From health care, to job creation, to education, Republican policies simply do not respond to the challenges facing American families.

Housing is a prime example of distorted Republican priorities. While Republicans are happy to continue tax cuts for wealthy corporate interests, they are making cuts that threaten safe and secure homes for thousands of children and families across the country.

Last month, in the middle of the fiscal year, the Department of Housing and Urban Development changed the rules and retroactively cut back funds for housing initiatives. Heartlessly, the Administration is taking housing money away from needy families who were promised it. This is unheard of in our history and reveals a new level of aggressiveness on the part of the Administration.

This Administration is breaking a 30-year promise to help low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled to afford decent, safe housing. For the first time, the government will no longer pay the full cost of rent vouchers. This will impact not only needy families but also the private landlords who rent homes to them.

San Francisco is one of the most expensive places to live in the nation, and any assault on affordable housing will be felt here. Working with Congressman Barney Frank of Massachusetts, our leader in the House of Representatives on housing issues, I will fight any attempt to undermine affordable housing.

The consequences of the new ruling will be devastating. In cities across the nation, thousands of families that now receive housing support through Section 8 vouchers could face dramatic rent increases or even eviction from their homes



Representative Nancy Pelosi

and apartments during the next few months. The poorest and most vulnerable families will suffer the most, and these cuts would likely contribute to homelessness in San Francisco and across the country.

In San Francisco, there are already 27,000 people on the waiting list for Section 8 housing, and the list has been closed since 2001. We need to increase access to Section 8 housing, not cut it.

This change is shortsighted, and it is sudden. Clearly, the Administration has decided not to wait for Congress to weigh in on its new Section 8 proposal, which was included in this year's budget, to reduce and block grant the voucher program. It has already drawn criticism from both sides of the aisle this year. Under the President's 2005 budget, housing assistance could be cut for 250,000 families across the nation who are currently receiving Section 8 housing assistance.

These policies are outrageous, and they are wrong. We must ensure that no family in America loses a safe, decent home in which to raise its kids because of reckless cuts by this Administration.

To contact Nancy Pelosi's S.F. District Office call 415-556-4862 or e-mail her directly at sf.nancy@mail.house.gov

MoveOn – Let's Talk

After the success of their "Bake Sale for Democracy," which in five hours on April 17 raised \$2,300 for born-on-the-Internet MoveOn.org, the sale's organizers — a group of Potrero Hill neighbors — decided it was time for public expression on world affairs. A series of six salon-style "conversations" with speakers knowledgeable about Middle-Eastern peoples and issues — and about "what is going on in our country's political life" — is planned.

The first in the series will be June 12, at 2 p.m., with Diana Pickworth, an archaeologist specializing in the Near East.

The second event will be June 30, at 7:30 p.m., with anthropologist Donna Brasser and research psychologist Randall Harrison. Both discussion groups will meet at the Potrero Branch Library (in the upstairs room), at 1616 20th Street.

The organizers say that the Move On, Let's Talk group springs from the Internet-people with a shared sense of urgency, high energy, and emotional "mission" involvement to get voters out in November.

For more information about the group and dates of future discussions, call Margaret Keyes at 415-641-4488.

Bullet Train to Stop at 22nd St.

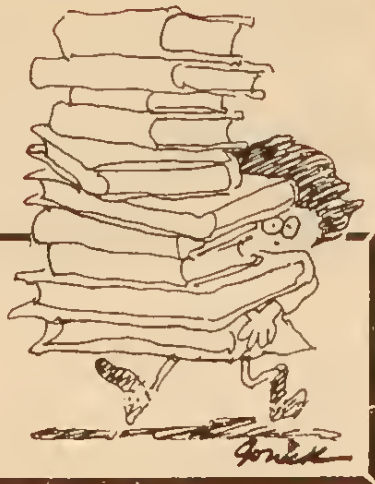
Hill Caltrain commuters will have reason to celebrate Monday, June 7, when the so-called Baby Bullet train service makes its debut. Original plans for the speedy service between San Francisco and San Jose did not include a stop at the 22nd Street station. But thanks to much prodding by Hill residents and other commuters, two southbound morning trains and two northbound evening trains

will stop at the station at the base of the Hill, one of only six of the 26 stations between S.F. and San Jose that will be serviced by the Bullets. Also good news for train riders — weekend rail service, suspended 23 months ago while the Baby Bullet project was under construction, resumes on Saturday, June 5.

Caltrain will hold a "Baby Announcement" party on Friday, June 4, 2 p.m., and a festival on Saturday, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., to celebrate the return of weekend service. Both events take place at the S.F. depot at Fourth and Townsend.

LIBRARY NEWS
POTRERO BRANCH
1616 20th St. / 355-2822

Closed Sunday and Monday
Tuesday: 10 am - 8 pm
Wednesday: 12 noon - 8 pm
Thursday: 10 am - 6 pm
Friday: 1 pm - 6 pm
Saturday: 1 pm - 6 pm



OUR 125th ANNIVERSARY
San Francisco Public Library has been serving local residents since 1879. To mark our 125th anniversary, various events have been scheduled throughout the city, including a grand celebration that takes place on Monday, June 7, starting at 11:30 a.m. on the 100 Larkin Street steps of the Main Library. For more information, log on to the library's website at www.sfpl.org, click on "What's New," then click on "Celebrate the Library's 125th Anniversary."

Peter Linenthal and the Potrero Branch Library hosted a Potrero Hill history program on May 26 to an appreciative, packed audience. This month, we will have birthday cake at the children's program on Saturday, June 26 (see listing below). And please stop by the library to look at a display panel that gives a bird's-eye view of this branch's history.

SUMMER IS ALMOST HERE
Calling all teens: if you are between the ages of 13 and 18, you can join the library's "Teen Summer Read" which runs from June 12 through July 24. Come in and sign up, keep track of what you read and your time, and receive prizes for reading!

SOMETHING FOR CHILDREN
"Flip Over Books" is the theme for SFPL's 2004 Summer Reading Club, which runs from June 12 through August 7. The purpose of the Summer Reading Club is to encourage children to keep reading during the summer. Preschool-age children also can participate by having someone read to them. All children up through age 13 who join the club and participate will receive small incentive prizes for reading, and upon completion of reading for eight or more hours, will receive a grand prize. Grand prize choices will include a book, a wand, or passes to local attractions such as the Bay Area Discovery Museum and the San Francisco Zoo. Come in to the library for more details.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS IN JUNE
In conjunction with the Summer Reading Club, Potrero Library will have many free programs for children throughout the summer, thanks to funding from the Friends of the Library:

Thursday, June 17, 10:30 a.m.: Story-

teller Tureeda Mikell brings "African Folktales, Rhythm, Rap, and Rhyme." For all ages.

Tuesday, June 22, 7 p.m.: Come and see Daniel Volk (a.k.a. "Bouncin' Dan the Paddleball Man") perform his amazing paddleball tricks, feats, and stunts! For all ages.

Saturday, June 26, 4 p.m.: You won't want to miss Ronn Bohn as Professor Funnybone, ventriloquist extraordinaire. For ages 5 and older. Join us afterwards for birthday cake, celebrating SFPL's 125th anniversary.

And don't forget, we have our regular weekly and monthly programs, too:

Infant/toddler lapsit, featuring stories, songs, and rhymes on Thursdays, June 10 and 24 at 10:30 a.m. For children new-born through age 3.

Evening films on Tuesday, June 8 at 7 p.m.: *Little Blue, Little Yellow, The Caterpillar and the Polliwog, and Goodnight, Gorilla*. For ages 3 and older.

Evening storytime on Tuesday, June 15 and 29 at 7:00 p.m. For ages 3 and older.

Please note that the programming room is not accessible by elevator. Contact the library in advance for group reservations.

COMING ATTRACTIONS:
BOOKS ON ORDER
Doctored Evidence: A Commissario Guido Brunetti Mystery, by Donna Leon

The Return of the Dancing Master, by Henning Mankell

How California Schools Work: A Practical Guide for Parents, by Don McCormack
Wildly Successful Plants: Northern California Gardens, by Pam Peirce

Baking Illustrated: The Practical Kitchen Companion for the Home Baker

CHILDREN'S BOOKS ON ORDER
Eureka! Great Inventions and How They Happened, by Richard Platt

Nelson Mandela's Favorite African Folktales

The Magic Bed, by John Burningham

A Wizard Named Nell, by Jackie French Koller

Jens Woo

Potrero Branch Library Manager



The View at the Library

If you are searching for a story that ran in *The Potrero View* a long time ago, take a look at the bound volumes at the Potrero Branch Library which contain every issue from the very first one in 1970 through 2000. Also at the library are unbound back issues from 2001 to the present. All these materials are available for use at the library.

TEN YEARS AGO

In The View

HEALTH SERVICE CUTS THREATEN HILL DENTAL CLINIC
Supervisors will be considering the proposed health services budget cuts on June 23, when the Finance Committee holds hearings. Mayor Frank Jordan is recommending a \$6 million cut, which would effectively wipe out the positions of a dentist and a dental assistant currently sharing a 60-hour workweek at the Potrero Hill Health Clinic. Dental services at the clinic are offered to residents who are unable to pay for such services in the private sector. Without the dental care at the clinic, the needs of those unable to pay would be ignored until an emergency arose, and then they would have to be treated at SFGH.

THE MAYOR PAYS A VISIT
Mayor Frank Jordan toured the neighborhood on May 24. The itinerary took the mayor to the 19th Street path, a mini park, SFGH, and the shops on 18th Street. The tour ended at Sally's Deli on De Haro Street. A number of Hill residents expressed disappointment that omitted from the tour were such agencies as the Caleb Clark Clinic, the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, and the schools.

SCHOOL ASBESTOS CLEANUP FORCES TRANSFER OF KIDS
The start of asbestos cleanup at Starr King School this summer will mean the need to find a new location for the 53 youngsters currently at Potrero Terrace Children's Center in the Starr King building. The center moved there several years ago after a bus crashed into its original facility, which was later torn down. For the elementary school children at Starr King School, the asbestos work will mean moving into ten bungalows set up in the schoolyard. But requirements for pre-schoolers are more stringent, and state certification prohibits the use of portable bungalows for the Children's Center.

PARKING PERMIT PLAN PUSHED FOR POTRERO HILL
Parking issues topped the agenda at a meeting when SFGH staff members met with neighbors. The Chief of the Parking and Traffic Department explained the Residential Parking Permit currently in force in 22 areas of the city. He urged residents in the hospital vicinity to begin action to create a RPP area since it takes a year and a half to establish one.

COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL - ONE-ON-ONE CONTACT
For the past year and a half the Neighborhood House has been an official site for one of the city's Community Day Schools. The city has about 600 students enrolled in these schools with about 25 at PHNH. These are middle-schoolers ranging in age from 12 to 15, and there are almost twice as many boys as girls. They are assigned to the school for such reasons as poor grades, poor attendance, or disciplinary problems. They spend a year in the school and then are reassigned to the regular public schools. The teacher is assisted by an instructional aide, and there is a lot of one-on-one contact.

JACKSON PARK LEAD CLEANUP OKAYED
Even though the Rec and Park Department has finally found the funds to clean up lead at the Hill's Jackson Park, it may be several months while the paperwork to get the project started moves through official channels. Unsafe lead levels were found several months ago, but the funding was delayed because estimates for the cleanup exceeded what the department had thought it would cost.

MUSIC MAKERS WILL USHER IN THE SUMMER SOLSTICE
The SF Arts Commission, the Neighborhood House and the Potrero Hill Recreation Center will join together to bring to the community a celebration of music and the summer solstice on June 21, on the green at the Rec Center, at Arkansas and Madera streets. Musical groups of many kinds will perform to honor the beginning of the summer season. June 21 as the Day of Music was first celebrated by order of the French Minister of Culture in 1982. The event has since spread around the world. San Francisco became the first city in the U.S. to join the celebration in 1992, and is still the only city in the U.S. taking part in this event, which is now celebrated in 80 countries.

— Bernie Gershtater

THE BIRDMAN OF CESAR CHAVEZ

"Is it a man? Is it a bird?" Motorists on Cesar Chavez may wonder as they pelt by the recently installed sculpture near the northbound entrance to Interstate 101.

Bicyclists approaching the new Bike Bridge (see story on Page 11) have the luxury of easily detouring onto the formerly forlorn spit of land to get a closer look. The plaque on the statue reads: "This sculpture is presented to honor the indigenous heritage of this region."

Fabricated from steel mesh by Bayview artist Pepe Ozan with the assistance of Morgan Raimond, the 10-foot-tall figure, titled *Invocation*, was a project of the Public Art Program of the San Francisco Arts Commission.

Stephen Fotter photo



Biotech Meeting to Allow Innovative "Café" Format

On the evening of June 7, a large and highly-diversified group of ordinary San Franciscans will be taking a novel approach to a potentially heated controversy: they are going to sit down and talk, in depth, using an innovative large-group dialogue process called "World Café." The topic at issue: the prospect of the bioscience industry making San Francisco its home.

The occasion for the discussion is a confluence of events that are likely to put biotechnology at the center of public debate during the week of June 3-9. During that time, the city will play host to the Biotechnology Industry Organization's huge annual international meeting, while thousands of activists make use of the occasion to stage "Reclaim the Commons," a weeklong series of events designed to promote a common future based on public good rather than private profit.

Out of a concern that the San Francisco general public might experience the week chiefly as a series of traffic jams and a divisive polarizing of the issues, an independent group of citizens proposed creating the special participatory forum.

The simple, yet innovative large-group dialogue process called "World Café" format was selected because the process privileges no single point of view, and instead enables participants to learn from one another and discover shared concerns.

Another interesting and democratic aspect of the process is that, while city officials and industry and planning experts will be included among the participants, they will be participating as equals along with everyone else. Event organizers hope to set a new participatory precedent, providing the city with one new means of acquiring the community input called for by the Precautionary Principle ordinance that the Board of Supervisors passed in 2003.

A community discussion about the biotech industry is especially pertinent because, for some years now, the Mayor's

office has been encouraging the industry to settle in San Francisco for the possible economic benefits. Community hopes and concerns are being voiced on many issues, including the possible creation of new jobs for the local community, increased city revenues, environmental and safety hazards, impacts on housing and neighborhood livability, higher city services costs, economic stability, and the ethics and varieties of biotechnology.

A bioscience task force is due to come out with a report this summer suggesting how to implement a biotech expansion appropriately, but it's not clear that the task force has been successful in discovering broad and cohesive community input.

Response to the proposed forum has been enthusiastic from many quarters: Early co-sponsors include at least one city agency (the Department of Public Health), the Center for Urban Education about Sustainable Agriculture, and the Reclaim the Commons activists.

The Neighborhood Assemblies Network Initiative, a non-profit that helps highly-diverse communities build shared understanding, has agreed to provide pro bono consultation and to facilitate the event, which will take place on June 7, from 6 to 10 p.m., at the California College of the Arts, 1111 - 8th Street, near the intersection of Irwin, off 16th.

Advance signup is recommended as space is limited. To sign up, email: sfbitech@hotmail.com; organizers ask that you please state your occupation, organizational affiliations, neighborhood of residence and (optional) culture or ethnicity to help them meet diversity goals. You do not need to have any special knowledge or expertise about biotech. If you care about the kind of city San Francisco will become and you believe in thoughtful community dialogue, you qualify.

For more information contact Marc Tognotti or Karen Heisler at 415-643-3434.

MOTHER AND DAUGHTER WIN AWARD



Alicia deCastro (left) and her mother Andrea Laudate were winners of the California Lottery Heroes in Education award earlier this year. They were honored for their volunteer service in Sister-to-Sister, an after-school program for middle school girls created by the San Francisco branch of the American Association of University Women.

Supervisor Seeks More Control Over Muni & DPT

By Supervisor Gerardo Sandoval

Not a day goes by without a neighbor, a senior or a parent calling me about their fears over speeding cars. We are becoming a city of people afraid to walk our own neighborhoods. Every trip to the corner store is a little like playing Russian Roulette. Our seniors are struck by cars at a far higher rate than other groups, and our kids can't walk to school safely.

The Department of Parking and Traffic is supposedly in charge of pedestrian safety. Instead of just giving tickets, DPT should be out in our neighborhoods building speed humps, installing blinking crosswalks and putting up radar speed signs. But DPT's response time is in no way proportional to the problem.

To understand the situation, you have to remember that DPT is now Muni. That's right. The voters approved Prop E in 1999, which merged DPT with Muni and put both under the Municipal Transportation Authority (MTA). Unfortunately, there's not much that I—or any of the other supervisors—can do to influence Muni and DPT because we can only vote the *entire* MTA budget up or down. Frankly, our control over a department's budget is the only leverage we have.

That's why I've proposed a Charter Amendment that would give the Board of

Supervisors more ability to improve Muni and DPT. For example, the Director of Transportation recently got a \$60,000 raise. He now earns a salary of about \$280,000, making him one of the highest paid city officials. Under my plan, the Board of Supervisors would have the power to veto the director's contract. Wouldn't some of that money be better spent on making our streets safer for pedestrians? Or shouldn't his salary be tied to his effectiveness in making our streets safer?

My plan doesn't just affect budget issues. It would also shift the focus of Muni's annual survey back to where it should be—Muni riders. Muni is supposed to survey riders. But when was the last time someone called to ask you how Muni or DPT is doing? It's probably been a while, because Muni conducts phone surveys of the general public instead of surveys of actual Muni riders. That needs to change.

We all want DPT to make our streets safer and we all want Muni to do a better job. As an elected official, I want to be able to work toward these goals, and my proposal is a good start.

Supervisor Gerardo Sandoval represents District 11. His office can be reached at 415-554-6978.

California Academy of Sciences Settles in on Howard Street

Fish will swim in new tanks, ants will forage in their habitats, and visitors will see how comets form as the California Academy of Science celebrates its grand opening at 875 Howard Street, with a welcoming procession and festive family fun Saturday, June 19. Howard the GIANT, a huggable costumed ant, will lead welcoming committee members from the Rooftop at Yerba Buena Gardens to the new Howard Street address. The welcoming committee will include community neighbors, Academy members, and other wellwishers.

Both Saturday and Sunday, June 19 and 20, guests who attend the Grand Opening weekend may touch tide pool animals, stop in for children's story time, take a docent-led highlight tour, come in

close contact with live bats, learn about the Bay Area Ant Survey, and how a comet forms in a comet-making demonstration.

The Academy closed its doors to the public at its old location in Golden Gate Park December 31, 2003, for renovations. During the rebuild, the Academy will be located in the six-story building on Howard Street. The Academy dedicated two floors to exhibits, and the Steinhart Aquarium displays thousands of animals including African penguins, vine snakes, and poison dart frogs. The first natural history exhibit, *ANTS: Hidden Worlds Revealed* displays six live ant colonies, including Leaf Cutter and Army ants.

For more information on the grand opening and on exhibits, call 415-321-8000 or visit www.calacademy.org.

BEFORE THE INTERNET



THERE WAS SOMETHING CALLED A BOOK. Sure there are all sorts of online communities, but what about the community in your own backyard? Christopher's Books is where Potrero Hill residents go when they want a great book and good conversation. Our booksellers know customers by name and stock the shelves with books that folks on the Hill will enjoy. So log off and take a short walk to Christopher's. If you simply can't bear to part with your keyboard, you can always email us at cbooks@rcn.com.

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Sixth graders from the Creative Arts Charter School relax in front of the mural they created for the playground the school shares with the EDM Middle School of the Arts on De Haro Street. *Leslie Lombre photo*

6th Graders, Design Students Renovate School Playground

By Leslie Lombre

May Day was "Build Day" for San Francisco's Creative Arts Charter School's sixth grade students and an undergraduate class of architectural design students from California College of the Arts (CCA). This past semester, the sixth grade class at CACS worked in partnership with twelve college students and their instructor to develop a plan to improve the K-8 grade school's site as their community service project. With input from the school-wide community, the students proposed three

immediate projects for the recess yard.

CACS students range from 5-13 years in age. The school playground, shared by both CACS and the Enola D. Maxwell Middle School of the Arts, offered little more than a few lonely basketball hoops, an old corrugated storage container, and virtually nothing for children younger than 9 or 10.

Close to a hundred people turned out on May 1 to paint and construct a kid-friendly playground appropriate for the young student body. (The school relocated to the EDM Middle School last

September.) The daylong work party began at 9 a.m. when the sixth grade students, their families and friends, and the college students gathered on the grounds. The group broke into three task forces. The first group was assigned to paint and attach a 40-foot mural to cover an unsightly storage bin. A second group began to stripe the playground asphalt to create ball game boundaries and designate other play areas. The final group constructed an "urban raft" play structure built with multiple low wooden platforms.

By the end of the day, the playground had undergone a colorful renovation: bright colors outlined hopscotch, four-square, volleyball and basketball courts; the San Francisco-themed mural hid the ugly container bin; and the imaginative "urban raft" invited kids of all ages to play.

Thanks to the Charter School's sixth-grade students, the California College of Arts Community Design class, and the Center for Art and Public Life, the playground has been transformed. Generous contributions and donations of services and materials were also made by CCI General Contractors, Potrero Hill Merchants Association, Everest Waterproofing & Restoration, Architectural Foundation of San Francisco, UCSF, Maxim Healthcare, Curves, Kelly-Moore Paint Co., Lumberman Construction Supply, and Sherwin-Williams Co.

Sixth-grade teacher Barbara Sabbadini described the satisfaction that came out of this community service project. "The kids got the opportunity to work with a very creative group of students from CCA to make some real change for the school. The most amazing thing for our students is that the inspiration for all the changes came from within themselves."

Leslie Lombre, a former Potrero Hill resident, is a volunteer at the Creative Arts Charter School.

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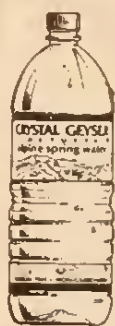
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GOAT HILL PIZZA will be exhibiting paintings by Patty Corwin, in her first solo show. The show will be on view through July 31. A reception will be held for the artist at Goat Hill Pizza, 18th and Connecticut, Sunday June 6, 1-3:30 p.m.



MODERN TIMES BOOKSTORE: Unless otherwise noted all events take place at the bookstore, 888 Valencia Street, at 20th. Call 415-282-9246 for more information about Modern Times events.

Thursday, June 17, 7:30 p.m.: Craig Seligman, author of *Kael: Opposites Attract Me*, explores the enduring influence of two critics who defined the cultural sensibilities of a generation.

Sunday, June 20, 2 p.m.: Dan Belin and Rich Yurman, *Fathers' Day Poetry Reading*. A gathering of notable local poets will read from their poetry reflecting and mus-ing on fatherhood.

Wednesday, June 23, 7:30 p.m.: Geoffrey Nunberg, author of *Going Nuclear: Language, Politics and Culture in Confrontational times*, discusses how the use of language reflects the nation in which we live and explores the most controversial topics of our time.

Sunday, June 27, 4 p.m.: John Ross, author of *Murdered by Capitalism: A Memoir of 150 Years of Life and Death on the American Left*, a unique fusion of personal memoir and lively history, a kind of *Night of the Living Dead* of the American Left.



COMMUNITY MUSIC CENTER: Unless otherwise noted, events take place at 544 Capp Street. For more info, call 415-647-6015 or visit www.sfcmc.org.

Friday, June 18, 11:15 a.m.: Free Summer Camp Performance. Participants, ages 9-11, will perform in small chamber groups and finish with a large group demonstration of their creative talents using a variety of homemade instruments.

Sunday, June 20, 4 p.m.: Free performance of mostly baroque piano and harpsichord music.

Tuesday, June 29, 6 p.m.: Free performance at the Stern Grove Festival by Dr. Anthony Brown, who recently received a Guggenheim for his recomposition of Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*, performing excerpts from *American Rhapsodies*.



CRISSY FIELD CENTER: 601 Mason at Halleck in the Presidio. For more info, visit www.crisseyfield.org or call 415-561-7690.

Be a Park Hero, Saturday, June 19, 9 a.m. to noon, for families and youth ages 10 and up. No fee. To register call 415-561-7752. Be a part of the Presidio's natural cycle by removing invasive exotic plants from the coastal bluffs near Baker Beach.

Family Outdoor Adventure, *Anza Trail Meets Mountain Lake*, Sunday, June 27, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m., for all ages. Free, call to register, 415-561-7752. Travel back in time with Commander Juan Bautista de Anza on an hour-long one mile hike to the beginning of San Francisco's history. Meets at Mountain Lake; directions sent with confirmation.



S.F. PUBLIC LIBRARY: Unless otherwise noted, all events take place at the Main Library, 100 Larkin at Grove. Call 415-557-4277 for more information about library events and exhibits.

Wednesday, June 9: Open Books. Joann Levy has pieced together for the first time the grand story of two of American history's forgotten treasures, Eliza Farnham and Georgianna Bruce Kirby, who made national headlines with their writings on abolitionism, women's suffrage, spiritualism and phrenology. 6:30 to 7:30 in the Latino. Hispanic Community Meeting Room.

Thursday, June 10: A Free Library in This City, a lecture and discussion by author and journalist Peter Wiley about the history of the San Francisco Public Library and the Civic Center Neighborhood. 6:30 to 7:30 in the Koret Auditorium.

Monday, June 14: The History of the Sunset District: the Early Years. Lorri Ungaretti will show slides of the Sunset District and discuss its development. 7 p.m. at the Sunset Branch Library, 1304 18th Avenue, at Irving.

Tuesday, June 15: Anita Jones will share African and African American stories for ages 3-5, using musical instruments and singing. 10:30 a.m. at the Bayview/ Anna E. Waden Branch Library, 5075 Third Street at Revere.

Wednesday, June 16: San Francisco's Literary Neighborhoods. Local writers read and discuss their work and San Francisco's literary scene. 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Koret Auditorium. A related exhibition of street festivals will be seen in the Jewett Gallery through July 25.

Digging Deep, an exhibition of artifacts found on the site of the Main Library, which was built on the ruins of a Gold Rush cemetery and the old City Hall. Opening Monday, June 7, 1st floor, Grove Street entrance exhibit cases.

This Institution Is Yours: The SF Public Library at 125. This exhibition highlights historical moments from the 125-year history of the SF Public Library and features what patrons were reading about from its founding in 1879 to the present. June 7-September 23, 6th floor.



S.F. MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY. The life and times of legendary S.F. newspaper editor Fremont Older is the topic of the Tuesday, June 8 program of the S.F. Museum and Historical Society, at the UCSF Laurel Heights Campus, 333 California Street, at 7:30 p.m. Older was closely involved in many of the political and union issues of early 20th century San Francisco. Free; no reservation required. For more info call 415-774-1111 or visit www.sfhhistory.org.



S.F. GIRLS CHORUS will be holding auditions for girls ages 7-12 on Saturday, June 12. The music program provides training in techniques, sight-singing, study skills and musical theory. Need-based tuition assistance available. Call 415-863-1752, ext. 317, for more info and to make an appointment.



THE MEXICAN MUSEUM at Fort Mason Center, Laguna and Buchanan streets, Building C, presents a free Family Sunday Workshop. Mexican Jewelry Art with workshop leader Coreen Cordova showing examples of Mexican jewelry workmanship and guiding participants in making jewelry, Sunday, June 13, 2-4 p.m. All ages welcome. Limited capacity, so call 415-202-9700, ext 721 to reserve your space.



INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL Free performances in the Esplanade Gardens of Yerba Buena Center, Mission between Third and Fourth streets, June 14-18 and 21-25, 12:30 p.m.



GRAY PANTHERS OF SAN FRANCISCO meet Tuesday, June 15, 12:30-3:00 p.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Center, 1187 Franklin at Geary, for a panel discussion to discuss Section 8 cutbacks, Ellis Act evictions, land trust, Proposition P cleanup at Hunters Point, and the Housing Preservation Ordinance proposed by Chitis Daly. Admission is free. Refreshments at 12:30 p.m., meeting at 1 p.m. For more information call 552-8800.



WIN A TRIP TO CANADA! Spring fundraiser for the Senior Action Network (SAN) is offering, as its first prize, a trip to Vancouver, Canada (where prescription drugs are half the price) or \$600 cash. The drawing is July 8. SAN fights for affordable housing, cheap prescription drugs, universal health care, and safety on the streets. For info or to buy raffle tickets call the SAN office at 425-546-1333.



FREE ADULT VISION SCREENING Monday, June 21, between 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., at Prevent Blindness Northern California, 4200 California Street, Suite 101. The screening takes only about ten minutes and could save your sight. Appointments are necessary to avoid long waits. Call 415-387-0934 for an appointment.



OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE presents an all-day symposium on how the culture and media depict aging and older people. The day includes brainstorming sessions on what we can do as consumers and image makers to see stories, images and protagonists that reflect our lives. Monday, June 21, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Jewish Community Center of San Francisco, 1200 California Street at Presidio. Speakers include Allen Chinen, M.D., author of books on mid-life, State Senator John Vasconcellos, Paul Kleyman, of the American Society of Aging, and artists and writers Jewelle Gomez, Margaret Jenkins, and Greil Marcus. The cost is \$35. For more information call 415-405-7711 or visit www.cel.sfsu.edu/OLLI.



OLDER WOMEN'S LEAGUE (OWL) meets Saturday, June 26, at the First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin at Geary. Program and business meeting 10:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Free. No advance registration is necessary. The topic of discussion will be "How can we use our environment to increase our potentials?" The workshop will be led by environmental designer Phyl Smith. For more information call the OWL office at 415-989-4422.



BARBERSHOPPERS PERFORM at S.F. State's Knuth Hall near Holloway Street on Saturday, June 26, at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Featured will be the Cable Car Chorus and three west coast quartets: Q, Top of the Mark, and Highlight. Admission \$20; seniors and students with ID, \$10. Tickets can be purchased at the door, or online at www.sfcablecarchorus.org. For more information call 415-824-7854.



ART IN CITY HALL. *Freedom of Impression; Prints from the Graphic Arts Workshop* will be on display through August 7. At a time when constitutionally guaranteed rights are in jeopardy, the printmakers of the Graphic Arts Workshop assert their right to creative self-expression in the exhibition. Founded in 1952, the GAW, a cooperative, provides fellowship and affordable workspace for fine art printmakers. Open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday; 12-4 p.m. Saturday; closed Sunday. Free admission.



THE EXPLORATORIUM: 3601 Lyon Street, Palace of Fine Arts. Hours: Tuesdays-Sundays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission \$8-\$12; members, children under 4, and first Wednesdays free. Events included in the price of admission to the museum. For more info, 415-EXP-LORE.

Monday, June 7 at 10 p.m. and Tuesday June 8 at 4 a.m.: Watch the transit of Venus across the disc of the sun, an astronomical event that has not occurred since 1882. Join Exploratorium staff astrophysicist Dr. Linda Shore, live from Greece, at www.eploratorium.edu/venus, for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th contacts of Venus and the sun, respectively. For the 10 p.m. transit, the public is invited to join the live webcast from inside the Exploratorium. Doors open at 8:30 p.m. for an evening of Greek desserts and traditional music and dances. Roving astronomers will train their telescopes on the stars and share their lenses throughout the evening.

Saturday, June 19, noon-4 p.m.: *The Physics of Toys: The Business of Dizziness* uses the construction and deconstruction of toys to explore and learn about rotational motion. Flipover tops, supported tops, whirligigs and yo-yos, and gyroscopes. Take what you make home.



VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED for the AIDS/HIV/HepC Nightline, which provides telephone emotional support, crisis counseling and basic information for anyone with HIV or Hepatitis C concerns. A training class starts in June. Call 415-984-1902, day or night.



Film Review

Blowing the Whistle on the Corporation

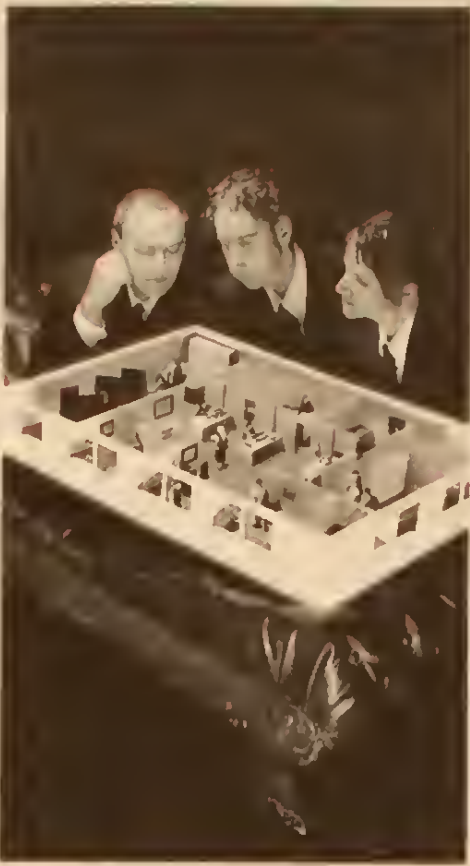
By Julia Segrove

If you've ever wondered about the power and influence corporations wield in our country, your curiosity will be sated by *The Corporation*, a timely, political documentary that charts the corporation's emergence and spectacular rise, ongoing controversial corporate activity and how the corporation became today's dominant institution.

Award-winning activist filmmakers Mark Achbar (*Manufacturing Consent: Noam Chomsky and the Media*) and Jennifer Abbott (*A Cow at My Table*) collaborated with Rhodes Scholar and writer Joel Bakan (*Just Words: Constitutional Rights and Social Wrongs*) for over six years to research and produce *The Corporation*, which in recent months has resonated

with audiences around the world. Earlier this year, the provocative, well-crafted film snagged the Documentary Audience Award for World Cinema at the Sundance Film Festival. Using interviews, anecdotes and archival footage, the filmmakers brilliantly tackle and present complex issues such as corporate accountability, economic globalization and recent debates about the far-reaching repercussions of corporations increasing power in our country and abroad. In the mid-1800s, the corporation emerged as a legal "person," which gave rise to enormous wealth for the select few, yet little or nothing for workers, the environment, animals and the biosphere. For over 150 years, the corporation has developed into a global governing institution that envelops us all.

Throughout the nearly three-hour film, aspects of the corporation's complex characters are illuminated by interviews with a wide range of men and women from top level executives representing various industries to management guru Peter Drucker, Nobel Prize winning economist Milton Friedman, Noam Chomsky, writer Naomi Klein, historian



A scene from *The Corporation*, a documentary playing at the Castro Theater June 4 through 16.

covered the corporation was using rBGH, a synthetic hormone widely used in the United States (but banned in Europe and Canada) to boost milk production. Although the story is engaging and often shocking, it is yet another example of how corporations ignore the public good when the profit motive overrides all other values.

Although the documentary clearly takes a critical view of corporations and economic globalization and advocates social change, the filmmakers balance the film by presenting CEOs who express their visions about the "business" of big business and how they are striving to improve their companies' performance when it comes to environmental and labor issues. Although the material that makes up the documentary could have, in someone else's hands, become a dry, tedious tirade about greed and social injustice, the filmmakers have infused the film with humor, drama and a brilliant graphic sensibility.

The Corporation opens for a limited run, from June 4-16, at the Castro Theater, 429 Castro Street. On Thursday, June 3, the Film Arts Foundation, 145 Ninth Street, Suite #101 presents "An Evening with the Directors of *The Corporation*," which includes clips from the film and a discussion with co-directors Mark Achbar and Jennifer Abbott and writer Joel Bakan. For more info, call Film Arts at 415-552-8760 or visit www.filmarts.org.

A Gala for Mission Movie

Another thought provoking and entertaining social issue feature film to check out is Potrero Hill filmmaker Lise Swenson's *Mission Movie*. Several years in the making, this greatly anticipated film reflects the diverse concerns of residents in San Francisco's Mission District. A gala community celebration starts at 7:30 p.m., Friday, June 4, at the Mission Village, 2949 18th Street (between Alabama and Florida streets). The event includes music, appearances by supervisors Tom Ammiano and Matt Gonzalez, and a free screening of *Mission Movie*. For more info, visit www.missionmovie.org or call 415-364-3082.

Julia Segrove is a filmmaker and Potrero Hill resident.

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Performing Arts Roundup

By Sandhya Dirks

Personal Geographies

Where is the intersection between where we are from and who we become? For writers and artists as disparate as Joan Didion and James Joyce where we are from serves as a keystone — one that opens the central mystery of ourselves.

Eight-year-old Brian Copeland and his family moved to San Leandro in 1972, one year after it had been named one of the most racist suburbs in America. In his first solo show, KGO talk-show star and stand-up comic Copeland explores how that experience forged who he is today.

To witness the fraternal twin issues of identity and geography presented with a sense of humor, see *Not a Genuine Black Man* at The Marsh, 1062 Valencia Street. The show continues Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 8:30 through June 24. Tickets are \$15-22 and can be purchased by calling 415-826-5750 ext. 4.

Other performances at the Marsh this month include:

Travel-writer and monologist Jeff Greenwald's *Strange Travel Suggestions*, a series of monologues inspired by the vagaries of wanderlust and determined by the audience with a spin on the "Wheel of Fortune." Wednesdays through June 9, 7 p.m.

Lunatique Fantastique's *Reframing the Hourglass*, a workshop production on the way to the S.F. Fringe 2004. *Hourglass* is a look at aging through the eyes of the slightly crazy Aunt Henri and her elegant friend Moldie May. Based on a true story, this tale of friendship is told entirely in silence using only objects (a walker, pill bottles, orthopedic shoes, picture frames, and a cardigan sweater) and puppeteers' bodies. Fridays and Saturdays, June 11-16, 7 p.m.

Is Mark Kenward betraying his working-class roots when he unknowingly stumbles upon a fortune? This question haunts him into pursuing a most unusual spiritual path: the path of business. A path he knows nothing about. A which leads him into the underbelly of the Oakland Hills and the cut-throat world of yoga studio. Kenward's *Dharma for Dollars* can be seen Wednesday, June 16 at 8 p.m.

Josh Kornbluth's *Improv Towards a New Piece*. Watch Kornbluth improvise and develop his newest show right before your eyes — just as he has done at The Marsh since 1990. Wednesday, June 30, 8.415-826-5750.

For reservations and more information call 415-826-5750.

Translate This

The word "translation" has been thrust into the popular spotlight what with Sofia Coppola's award-winning film. But rather than getting lost in translation, Mark Foeinger's Dance Project titles its newest piece with the artistic truth of *Loose Translations*. The best way to prevent being lost is to understand and embrace the necessary existence of vagueness and ambiguity. Rather than decrying the impossibility of translation this title embraces its mutations. Translation is always loose, and god bless the individuality that entails.

The Mark Foeinger Dance Project is a contemporary ballet company that has been called by the *New York Times* an "immensely likable, sleekly classical ballet group." *Loose Translations*, set to the music of Gaetano Donizetti, premieres at 8 p.m. on Friday, June 18 and Saturday, June 19.

The home season also includes *Las Visicitudes* and other company favorites: *Here to There*, set to music by Mark Nyman; *String Quartet*, set to Prokofiev; *Rhapsodia*, set to music by Rachmaninov; and *Jammies*, featuring the music of popular artists.

Performances are at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater, 701 Mission Street. For tickets and more information call 415-978-2787.

World Beaters

World music is big these days. Music that borrows and bends and appeals to all ears, fusing traditional techniques with the global concept of the world. What do we do to music? We dance. So the natural progression - world dance! The San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival brings twenty-four of Northern California's ethnic dance companies and musicians to the stage for three weekends of performances. The three weekends of dance are grouped elementally into dances of the land, dances of the sea, and the dances of the sky. Expect to see everything from Indian classical dance to Scottish dance to Mexican polka rocking the stage.

The dates for the festival are June 12 and 13, 19 and 20, and 26 and 27. Performances will occur Saturdays at 2 and 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. at the Palace of Fine Arts, Bay and Lyon streets. Tickets are \$22-36. To purchase tickets, call 415-392-4400 or visit www.cityboxoffice.com or www.tickets.com.

Killer Comedy

Under the rubric *Bruno's Island New Plays Festival*, Killing My Lobster presents four world premiere one-act plays. What's this "Bruno's Island" all about? The story goes something like this: at the beginning of their soon-to-be-epic journey across the continent, explorers Lewis and Clark stumbled onto a small isle of dirt in western Pennsylvania called Bruno's Island. They decide to take a picnic with some inquisitive locals who cajole the would-be-heroes into demonstrating a brand new airgun that Lewis had just picked up for their travels. In the course of showing it off, he accidentally shot a woman in the head. Like the sandbar-cum-rest-area after which it is named, the *Bruno's Island New Plays Festival* is a place where people about to venture into the unknown get to test their new inventions on an unsuspecting public.

Killing My Lobster's new inventions are Scott Wolman's *The Play About Ice Cream*, in which a distraught man, his strong-willed daughter and a strange visitor spend a lot of time in a surreally decorated suburban kitchen, apparently with a lot of ice cream; James Venhaus's *The Temple of Dionysus*, a comedy about religion, faith, ancient rituals, and partying your butt off; Kevin Shay's *The Listening Room*, which tells the story of a prominent rock critic who finds himself held captive in his own soundproof music room; and *The Cheever Tapes* by Alex Dreman, the story of a professor's discover of a strange video tape that might net him tenure.

The unsuspecting public can take them in June 10-20 at the Magic Theatre. For show times and ticket info, call 415-558-7721 or visit www.killingmylobster.com.

Movies at Yerba Buena Center

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts presents *Janitor of Lunacy: The Films of Andrew Repasky McElhinney*. Without a budget and unfettered by boundaries, Philadelphia-based auteur McElhinney has created a body of work unlike that of any other filmmaker. Suggesting an unholy melding of Fassbinder, Edgar Ulmer, and Ed Wood, McElhinney's films are highly personal visionary meditations on beauty, the grotesque, and emotional extremes. Several his films will be screened, and his *Story of the Eye* premieres on Saturday, June 12, at YBCA's Screening Room, Third and Mission.

For more info on screenings of the McElhinney films, and films being shown during June call 415-978-2787 or visit www.YerbaBuenaArts.org.

Butoh Ruminates

"We are the pain and what cures the pain. We are the sweet cold water and the jar that pours it," so wrote the poet Rumi. Inspired by these words acknowledging our fluid nature and that truth is inherently paradoxical, John Doyle choreographed *The Water Bearers*, a Butoh-based dance performance by the Medicine Wheel Dance Project with music by Eric Chaffin and featuring dancers Sheena Koyama, Carolyn Pan, and Kinu Sells.

Performances are Monday July 12 and Tuesday July 13 at 8 p.m. at Theatre of Yugen at Noh Space, 2840 Mariposa Street. Tickets are \$10-15 and can be reserved by calling 415-621-7978 or by visiting www.theatreofyugen.org.

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The Martha Stewart Key Box by Sara O'Sullivan is on exhibit and for sale from June 3-17 at The Creativity Explored Gallery, 3245 16th Street.

“Functionable” Art For Sale

Artist Sara O'Sullivan had an idea when she heard that Creativity Explored would be doing an exhibition of items to decorate the home...she decided to make a key holder.

But nothing is ever ordinary at this extraordinary art studio for people with developmental disabilities. On the front of Sara's key box is a hand-painted picture of a smiling Martha Stewart. Open the door, however, and poor Martha is pictured standing forlornly behind bars – a hand-lettered message under the drawing says “Martha's New House.” Keys jingle gently on nearby hooks

Sara's key box will be available for purchase starting June 3, when Creativity Explored opens its latest exhibition “Functionable,” featuring furniture and home accents decorated and painted by more than 25 studio artists.

For 20 years, Creativity Explored has been a place where art changes lives. All of the more than 120 member artists at this non-profit visual arts center are people with a combination of developmental, psychiatric and/or physical disabilities. Some have lived a life of previous isolation or institutionalization.

The artists come to Creativity Explored from countries around the globe and speak a wide variety of languages. Many members do not speak at all, unable to communicate using spoken words.

This is the first time Creativity Explored has put up a show dedicated to utilitarian and functional work made from wood, ceramic and found objects. Most of the artists are accustomed to working with paint, ink and paper. A 2003 show of lamps and shadowboxes entitled “Lit” was a huge hit with art collectors and following it, staff decided to try a home décor show. “Sure these are everyday objects,” says curator Megan Saperstein, “but they definitely will not look so everyday in the end.”

Both Saperstein and co-curator Judith LaRosa enlisted their artists and community to bring in objects from home as well as cruising local thrift stores and garage sales.

The result is a stunning collection of one-of-a-kind chairs, tables, clocks, vases, bowls and lamps. There's even a raincoat.

Artist Yolanda Ramirez is particularly proud of her ice cream cone-shaped car clock. Robert Margolis has been hard at work creating picnicware covered in ants. Abel Pineda spent hours drawing gorgeous flowering vines all over an old chair.

The “Functionable” exhibition and sale opens June 3, with a reception from 7 to 9 p.m., and continues through July 17, at 3245 16th Street.

The gallery is open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday from 1 to 6 p.m.

For more information call 863-2108, or visit www.creativityexplored.org

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On Your Bike, Get Set, Go!



Thanks to the recent completion of a \$3.7 million bike bridge, bicyclists headed west on Cesar Chavez can now safely avoid "shooting the rapids" — that treacherous stretch where the street dips under Interstate 101. On Wednesday, May 19, the bridge was formally dedicated by representatives from the city and state departments responsible for the project and from the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition.

After the ceremonies, District 10 Supervisor Sophie Maxwell, who was one of the speakers, hopped aboard a borrowed bike to lead an enthusiastic group of cyclists across the bridge. "You're headed for District 9!" someone called out as she pedaled over a chunk of ceremonial red carpet.

The next day was Bike to Work Day. Energizer stations, set up throughout the city, provided refreshments, tote bags, information, and encouragement to new bicycle commuters. During the afternoon commute, Jacques Rutschmann (left), Ann Lyons, and J.T. Rehbock, all Hill residents and members of the Bike Coalition, worked the Hill's energizer station at the 22nd Street Caltrain stop.

Abigail Johnston and Stephen Fotter photos



Power Plant Mitigation Measures To Be Addressed At June 15 Workshop at the Neighborhood House

The San Francisco Electricity Resource Plan, approved by the Board of Supervisors in December 2002, sets forth an action plan to shut down existing dirty in-City generation, including the Hunters Point Power Plant, and to set the City on a sustainable course that reduces reliance on fossil fuels, maintains reliability and improves air quality.

As part of the plan, the City and County of San Francisco is proposing to construct and operate two new power plants, the San Francisco Electric Reliability Project (SFERP).

One facility is proposed to be developed on a 4-1/2 acre site at the existing Potrero Power Plant. It will consist of a 145-megawatt cycle plant, using three natural gas-fired turbines.

The SFERP at Potrero will reduce reliance on old, polluting power plants in the Potrero and Bayview-Hunters Point neighborhoods and will complement the City's efforts to develop renewable energy resources, such as solar and tidal power; energy efficiency and conservation programs; and small-scale distributed generation.

The City has been informed by the California Independent System Operator (CA ISO) that the SFERP, in combination with eight transmission projects that are currently planned and/or underway, will provide for closure of Hunters Point Power Plant and could provide for closure of units at the Potrero Power Plant as additional transmission is added.

On March 17, 2004, the City filed an Application for Certification (AFC) for the SFERP at Potrero with the California Energy Commission (CEC),

the agency that oversees siting of new electric generation facilities in the state. Over the next 12 months, the City will conduct several public meetings and the CEC will hold a formal hearing process to review the City's application for SFERP at Potrero.

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), these proceedings will provide for an in-depth review of the environmental impacts of the project, alternatives to mitigate these, and alternatives to the project as proposed by the City.

CEC will hold its first informational meeting on **June 15, 2004, starting at 2 PM at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro Street.** Additional information is available at the CEC website at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/sanfrancisco/index.html>

The City's AFC application acknowledges that Southeast San Francisco is a community of color with relatively high rates of serious respiratory diseases that has been disproportionately impacted by industrial facilities including power generation. Accordingly, the City has sought to design the project in a manner that minimizes the impacts on the community and is committed to working with the community to develop additional mitigation to address remaining impacts.

In the next several months, the City intends to hold several workshops in the community to seek community input on impacts of the project and options for mitigation. Question about the project and the City's efforts to work with the community can be directed to Jim Marks at 415-554-3237.

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A Father's Day Tribute

Thoughts on Shaving

By Risa Elkind Nye

Checking my rear view mirror at a red light on my way to work one morning, I noticed that the guy in the car behind me was shaving. Glancing in his rear view mirror, he buzzed the razor around his chin and neck, feeling for missed whiskers with his other hand. I wondered what it must be like to shave your face every day. You look at yourself and feel your face, getting to know the terrain until you don't have to think about it anymore. What do men think about during this daily ritual? Do they see themselves in the mirror?

Many years ago, my dad used to shave with a mug full of soap, a short stubby brush, and a safety razor. I remember looking up and watching, mesmerized, as he brushed on a soapy beard and moustache, then methodically scraped it all off until he was Dad again. Pink-cheeked and smooth, he sometimes splashed on a bit of the Old Spice after-shave my sister and I had given him for Father's Day. I remember soaping up my own little girl face, using a corner of a washcloth to scrape it off, in an attempt to experience this mysterious procedure myself.

With my sons, the whole ritual and necessity of shaving was a rite of passage — or so it seemed to me. We have our own rites of passage to womanhood, and I delighted in my daughter's journey — but watching boys turn into men is uncharted territory for a woman like me who grew up without brothers. Suddenly, voices change, bodies change, beards grow, and I am not sure how much of the boy remains inside the man. What do they think about, these two young men, as they navigate the terrain of their faces every day, electric razors humming?

Another red light, and I glance back again. The guy behind me is taking another pass at his face with the razor. I

wonder whatever happened to my dad's old shaving stuff. It's been three years since he died and I don't know what has become of his brush and soap. Maybe he got rid of it years ago when he switched to the less exotic shaving cream in a can. Even when his body started falling apart, grooming was important to him. A close shave and combed hair made him feel like his old self, even though he knew the old self was never coming back.

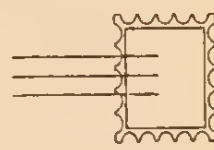
From winter to spring, my dad was in and out of hospitals. He suffered many indignities, experienced a lot of pain, and wept easily. One sunny day, sitting outside for the first time in weeks, he folded over, sobbing and keening, with the intense anguish of a man aware of his loosening grasp on a life he loved. Not knowing what else to do, I wrapped my arms around his shoulders and held him until his tears tapered off to a deep sigh. During those months, he often spoke wistfully about his days as a young father with two little girls who called him Daddy. Do I share his longing for the everlasting and unconditional love that young children give so freely to their parents? In years to come, when my children grow older and move further away, will I grow as wistful?

For the last two weeks of his life, my dad was cated for at home by a wonderful attendant who kept him bathed, combed and shaved. There was a great deal of love and care in these simple, touching gestures. In the end, they were the only things that allowed him to keep his dignity. I am left with one final memory: the feel of my dad's smooth cheek as I gave him a last goodbye kiss.

The light turns green again. The now clean-shaven man in the car behind me is turning left. I keep going straight, moving on to the rest of my day.

Risa Elkind Nye lives in Oakland, California.

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The California Poison Control System (CPCS) warns: "A common source of exposure occurs when lamp oil or lighter fluid is placed in a drinking cup or other container in order to transfer it to the lamp, torch or barbecue. If someone mistakenly drinks from the cup, the person risks inhaling the lamp oil or lighter fluid. Inhalation into the lungs can cause potentially life-threatening pneumonia, especially in young children."

Each year, the CPCS receives an average of 400 calls regarding the ingestion of lamp oil and lighter fluid. The incidence of these ingestions rises sharply in the beginning of spring and trails off dramatically as fall approaches. According to CPCS, the majority of these cases involve children under the age of 5. Recently, CPCS has been involved in the management of multiple cases involving small children who aspirated lamp oil into their

lungs and required hospitalization. Representatives of CPCS emphasize that consumers should take proper precautions when using lamp oil or lighter fluid to avoid accidental ingestions. A few safety precautions:

Never store lamp oil or lighter fluid in anything other than their original child-resistant packaging.

Never transfer lamp oil or lighter fluid into a container normally used for eating or drinking.

Always make sure to securely tighten the product lid after use. Remember that child resistant caps are NOT child-proof caps. Child-resistant caps only slow children down but do not prevent poisonings.

Always store lamp oil and lighter fluid safely out of the reach of children immediately after use.

In case of any accidental ingestion, CPCS is available for advice and information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by calling 1-800-222-1222. (Additional information is available on the Internet at www.calpoison.org.)

The CPCS is responsible to the California Emergency Medical Services Authority and is managed by the School of Pharmacy, Department of Clinical Pharmacy at the University of California, San Francisco. A division of CPCS is located at S.F. General Hospital Medical Center on Potrero Avenue.



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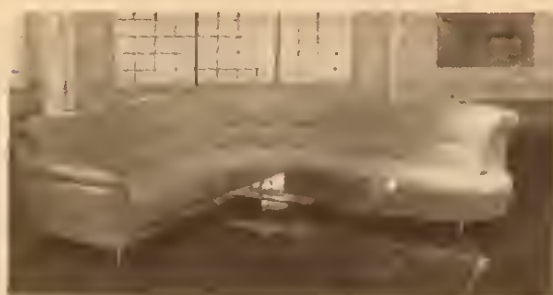
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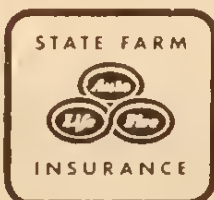
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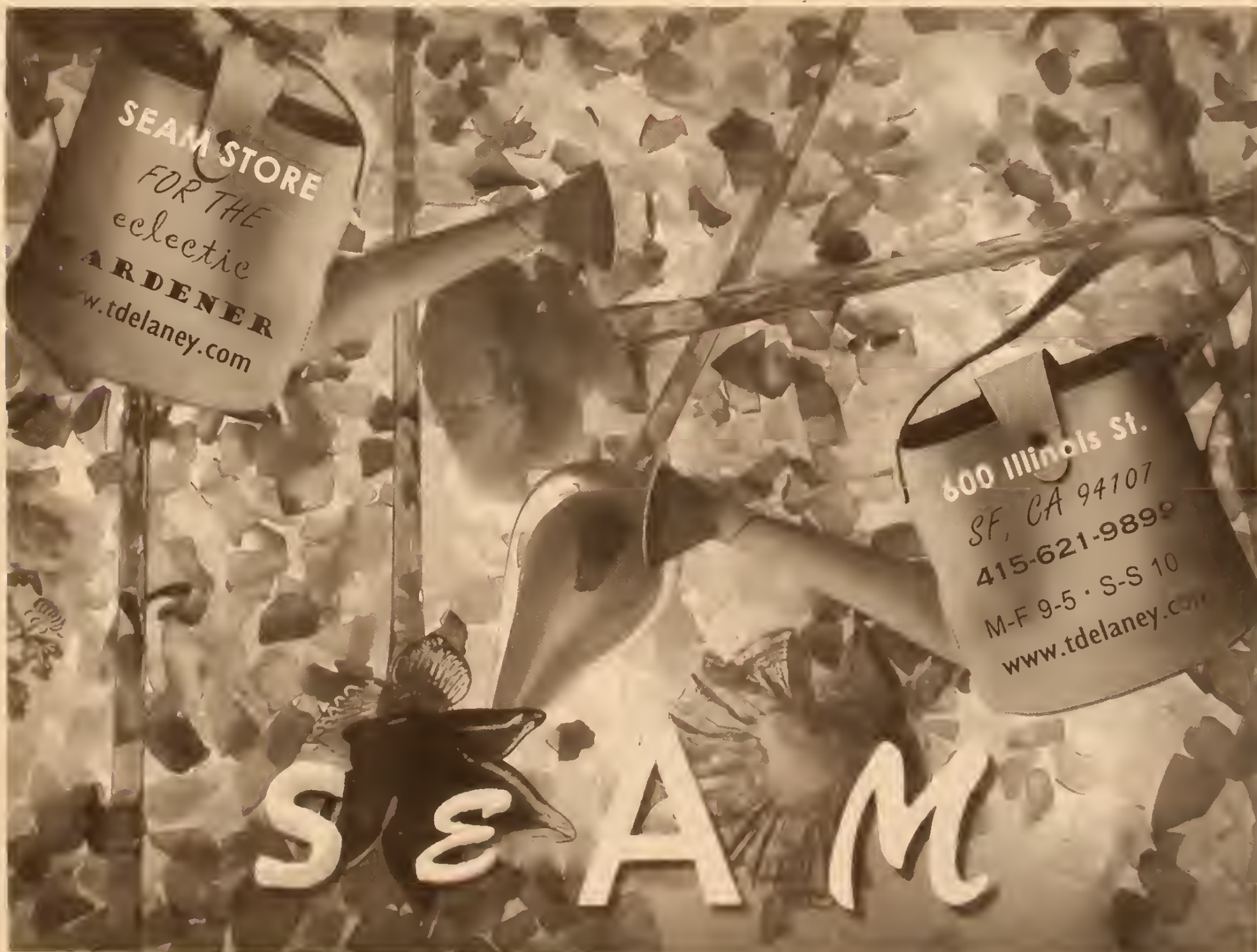
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S.F. Black Film Festival Launches Sixth Season

The San Francisco Black Film Festival (SFBFF) launches its sixth season Wednesday June 9. Continuing through Sunday, June 13, the festival presents 67 films from the United States, Cuba, Canada, Brazil, Israel, Africa, South Africa, and Holland, more than 20 of them world premieres.

The festival also features an awards ceremony, special guests, live music, parties, a vendor marketplace, a fashion show, and a silent auction. With so many activities on the schedule, several locations have been tapped as venues: the Brava Theater, 24th and York streets; the African American Art & Culture Complex, 762 Fulton Street; and the Bayview Opera House, 4705 Third Street.

At Brava June 10, 9.m., there will be an encore screening of *Hooked: The Legend of Demetrius Hook Mitchell*. The film looks at the life - a life gone wrong - of a Bay Area native often called the greatest basketball player never to make it to the NBA.

The highlight June 11, also at Brava, is the Melvin Van Peebles Awards Ceremony. A reception at 6 p.m. will precede the awards at 7 p.m. The San Francisco premiere of *Baadasssss Cinema* follows the awards ceremony. As events unfold that evening, a special silent auction will be offering the limited-edition book *The Greatest of all Times: A Tribute to Muhammad Ali*. Ali's daughter, boxer and actor Laila Ali, will talk about the book (a whopper of close to 800 pages, 20"x 20" square, and weighing in

at 75 pounds), and about her father.

Cinema for the younger set is Saturday's focus as the Urban Kidz Film Festival embarks on a third season from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the African American Art and Culture Complex.

On June 12 a special community screening of *Girl Trouble* is scheduled for the Bayview Opera House. The film follows three young women from San Francisco through the city's juvenile justice system. After the screening, there will be a question-and-answer period, with the three women profiled in the film and Lateefah Simon, MacArthur Fellow and Executive Director of the Center for Young Women's Development in San Francisco.

Saturday, June 12, features the world premiere of hardcore hip-hop documentary *Rap Dreams* from filmmaker Kevin Epps whose film *Straight Outta Hunters Point* has been critically acclaimed.

The festival closes Sunday, June 13, with the Northern California premiere of *One Love* at the Brava Theater. The film shows how the power of music and love can overcome the strongest cultural and religious differences, and features Bob Marley's son Ky-Mani in the lead role.

For a complete calendar of events, visit the SFBFF website at www.sfbff.org. Tickets for screenings, parties and special events may be purchased through TicketWeb at www.ticketweb.com. For more information call the 415-771-9271 or e-mail info@sfbff.org.

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Robin Brasso flanked by Adrianna Bo (left) and Jeanne Bott. — Carol Thollander photo

Brasso and Thollander Honored

(Continued from Page 1)

The job of a P.E. teacher is unique, he said. "They are the only teachers in a school in a position of working with all of the students." For that reason Thollander has had the opportunity to influence many kids and set a tone among the students.

The *View's* piece on Jeff Thollander, which ran in the May 2003 issue, quoted teacher Robin Brasso, saying that he was the "heart and soul of the school."

And, when Brasso celebrated her own retirement from the school this past May 28, it was at a party organized and managed by her friend and colleague Thollander.

Brasso began her teaching career in 1967 as an English teacher at Portola Jr. High School, and taught at Ben Franklin for a while. She left teaching to earn a Masters Degree and, additionally to become a mother. When she was ready to

return to the classroom, she was hired by Tom Sammon, the first principal of the then-new Potrero Hill Middle School.

She initiated the Opera a la Carte program at the school where the children perform on stage with opera singers. She works in the Auxiliary for Child Abuse Prevention, and on a talk hotline for parents who need help.

Brasso is also on the Executive Board of the United Educators of San Francisco. She belongs to the Little Jim Club, a fund-raiser for children born addicted to crack cocaine; is co-chair of the Anti-efamation League; and is member of the Raul Wallenberg Jewish Democratic Club.

Her plans for retirement include traveling, relaxing, sleeping in, continuing her activities with the teachers' union, spending lots more time with her granddaughter Arianna, and shopping, shopping, shopping!

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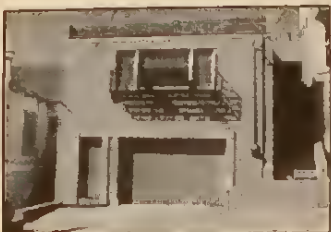
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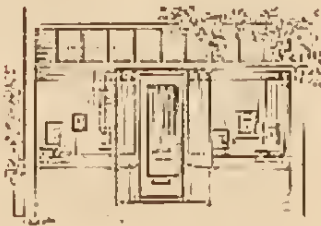
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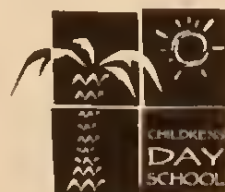
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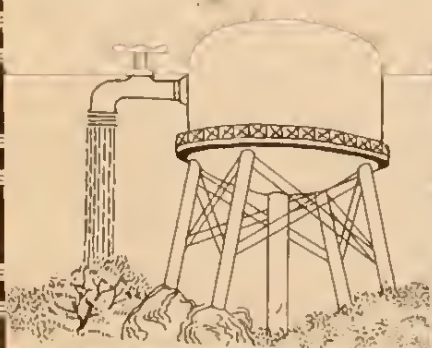
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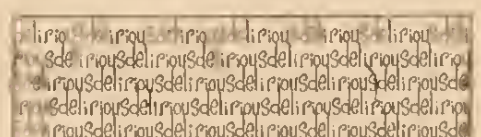


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